



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - December 13, 2002

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers continue from the ***Pacific Northwest southward into central California***, improving high-elevations snow packs and aiding pastures and winter grains.
- ***On the Plains***, favorable soil moisture levels are confined to ***southern portions of the region***, including much of ***Texas, western Oklahoma***, and parts of ***southern Kansas***. Mild, dry, breezy weather prevails on the drought-affected ***northern and central High Plains***, leaving most of the winter wheat crop exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and wet snow is overspreading the ***Ohio Valley***, boosting soil moisture reserves for the soft red winter wheat crop. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, mild, dry weather favors off-season fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, wet fields and widespread showers continue to disrupt fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and final summer crop harvesting. In ***southern Florida***, recent and ongoing rains have reduced or eliminated citrus irrigation requirements.

Outlook: Wet weather will overspread much of the ***eastern U.S.*** later today, as a storm system moves northeastward from of the ***Gulf of Mexico***. Temperatures will be high enough across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States*** to prevent frozen precipitation, but snow is likely from parts of the ***Ohio Valley to interior New England***. Meanwhile, a series of Pacific storms will provide periods of heavy rain and high-elevation snow to the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and northern California***, but mild, dry weather will prevail on the ***Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 18-22 calls for below-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and northern Plains***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***Southwest, southern Plains***, and throughout the ***South and East***. Above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***eastern half of the Nation***, while below-normal temperatures will prevail in the ***West***.

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